Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
PUBLIC SERVICES
Some entrances of the Jefferson and Adams Buildings are closed or restricted during renovation.
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LC Staff Braves the Blizzard of '96

Also: Dr. Billington Discusses Public Libraries' Future

Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Vol. 55, No. 1
January 22, 1996

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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On the Cover: Piles of snow blocked sidewalks around the Library on January 11—the single workday between one blizzard and the next.

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The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued biweekly except in August (no issues published) and in December (one issue published) by the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies and allied organizations in the United States. It is also available over the Internet. On World Wide Web, use the following address: gopher://marvel.loc.gov/11/loc/pubs/lcib. On Gopher, connect to marvel.loc.gov and look under "Events, Facilities, Publications and Services."

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Digital Transformation:
Dr. Billington Discusses Future of Public Libraries

A topic no less ambitious than "The Transformation of the Public Library" in the 21st century provoked far-reaching discussion at a Dec. 8 conference at the Library.

On hand were officials from key institutions working on access to digital information: the Library of Congress, the Coalition for Networked Information, the Council on Library Resources, the Public Library Association, Urban Libraries Council, Libraries for the Future and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Deanna Marcum, president of the Council on Library Resources, noted that to many Americans, their local public library evokes "warm feelings" about a place that is open

Yusef Al-Amin

Dr. Billington: "Knowledge must be openly accessible to all people."

to everyone with a desire to learn, and "digital information greatly enhances the possibilities for all groups of users." Addressing the conference's host, Ms. Marcum called the Library of Congress "the ultimate American public library."

James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress, welcomed the group and spoke of Americans "who made a difference" in the nation's libraries. It was Andrew Carnegie's "fascination with information" that led him to provide the funds for the establishment of 2,800 free public libraries, Dr. Billington said.

Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress (1899–1939), persuaded Congress to increase the Library's budget to build its collections and subsidize the cost of cataloging, which benefits libraries across America and around the world. It "costs more to catalog a book than to buy it," Dr. Billington noted.

"As the first Librarian of Congress who is an expert in a foreign [Russian] culture, I am especially aware of how important and precious our public library system is," he added. "Many believe it is one of the most important features of our democracy."

Dr. Billington then discussed what he saw as four common characteristics and threats to public libraries:

First, according to Dr. Billington, "for democracy to be dynamic, it has to be based on the dynamic use of knowledge." The threat is that with the flood of new technologies has come a "flood of infotainment, which degrades knowledge."

Second, "knowledge must be openly accessible to all people. Today, open access is threatened by the possibility of 'information-haves' and 'have-nots'—not by a conscious effort to monopolize information, but by the costs of delivering that information," he warned.

Third, the communal nature of public libraries as "temples of pluralism" in America is endangered by "the idea that you can get anything you want from home. The image of a lonely nerd in front of a computer screen is a de-formation of the idea of a gathering place."

Last, Dr. Billington lamented the fact that where once libraries "represented a kind of communal tribute to the values of the book," they are now at risk, due to the pervasive "culture of television, which has, for many, replaced active knowledge gathering, such as reading."

The Library's National Digital Library Program, he said, is designed to stimulate users to go back to books to find information to supplement their on-line research. The program focuses on nonbooks (manuscripts, prints, old documentary films) because, according to Dr.

Conference Participants

Other participants at the day-long conference were: Paul Peters of the Coalition for Networked Information, Brian Kahin of the Kennedy School of Government, Hal Varian of the University of California at Berkeley, William Arms of the Corporation for National Research Initiatives, Robert Croneberger of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Lois Wasoff of Houghton Mifflin, Daniel Atkins of the University of Michigan, George Needham of the Public Library Association, Susan Goldberg Kent of Los Angeles Public Library, Amy Owen of Utah State Library, Gloria Coles of Flint Public Library, Diantha Schull of Libraries for the Future, Roscoe Brown of the Center for Urban Education, Jorge Schement of Rutgers University, Andrew Blau of the Benton Foundation, Lewis Branscomb of Harvard University, Toni Bearman of the University of Pittsburgh and Joey Rodger of the Urban Libraries Council.

Billington, these materials "are not easily accessible" because of their fragility and rarity.

"The National Digital Library gives a new boost to the intellectual community. We at the Library of Congress regard you as our partners in this effort."

—*Guy Lamolinara*

Yusef Al-Amin

Deanna Marcum, president of the Council on Library Resources: The Library of Congress is "the ultimate American public library."

Jim Higgins

Conference attendees and participants included (from right): Suzanne Thorin, chief of staff and coordinator of National Digital Library Program; Deanna Marcum; and Brian Kahin, Kennedy School of Government.

NOTICE

Due to the shutdown of the federal government during the blizzard in January, this will be the only issue of the *LC Information Bulletin* this month.

Library of Congress Membership Available: *Includes Subscription to* Civilization *Magazine*

Associate membership in the Library of Congress, which includes a year's subscription to *Civilization: The Magazine of the Library of Congress*, is available for annual dues of $20 (see LC *Information Bulletin*, May 2, 1994).

To receive *Civilization*, call (800) 829-0427 to pay by credit card, or send check or money order, payable to *L.O.C. Associates*, to:

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Information Bulletin 84LC01

Unsung Heroes and Heroines:
Many LC Staffers Braved Blizzard to Do Critical Jobs

by Gail Fineberg and Jason Yasner

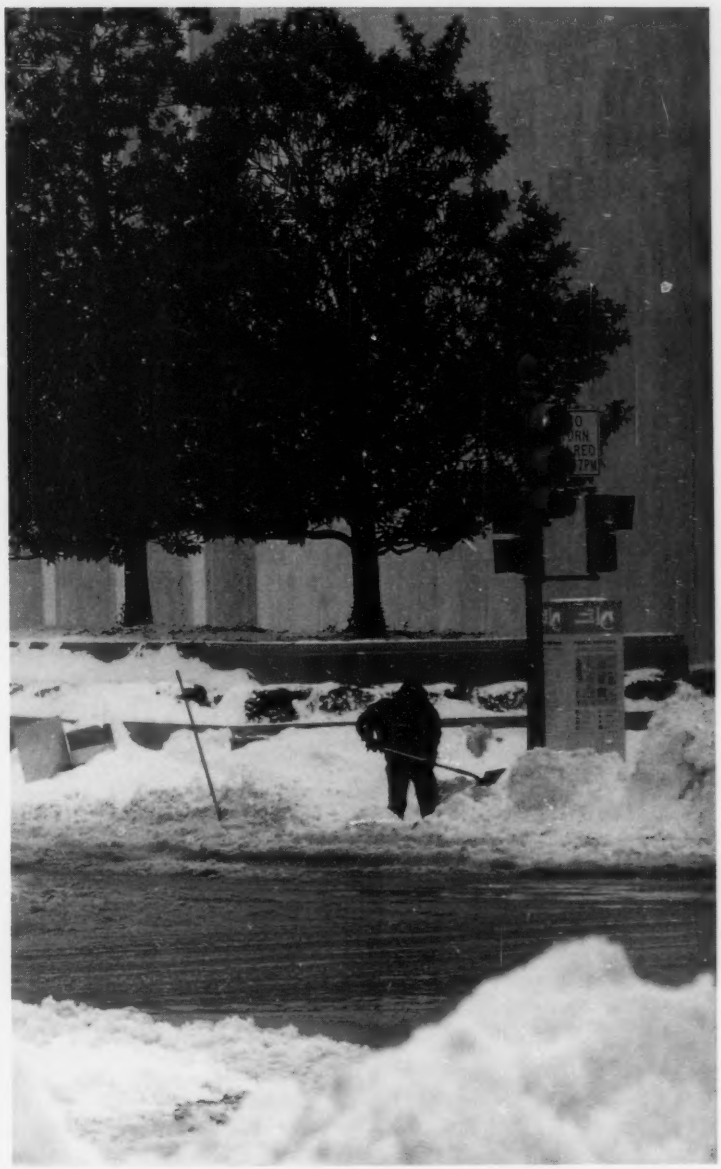
While most Library staffers snuggled up to TV weather reports announcing the status of the governmentwide shutdown during the Blizzard of '96, some stalwarts dug out and came to work—to secure the buildings and patrol for water leaks, to serve Congress and to keep LC's data center operating properly.

Among the heroes were four Information Technology Services staffers who spent up to three consecutive nights at LC to safeguard computerized data; Library Police officers who worked extra long shifts until replacements could make it through the snow to relieve them; six Congressional Research Division staffers who kept the La Follette Congressional Reading Room open throughout the storm; and Architect of the Capitol (AOC) crews who worked long hours, shunting Jefferson roof leaks around collections and shoveling snow.

"We owe these colleagues our respect and gratitude," said Dr. Billington. "Thanks to their extraordinary efforts, service to Congress was maintained, and the Library and its collections were kept safe and secure."

According to Library Police Capt. Rosiland Y. Parker, the Library's average daily work force during the storm was 27 for each of the five days of the storm (Jan. 7–10 and 12). "The low was five employees on Monday, Jan. 8, and the high was 62 on Wednesday, Jan. 10," she said.

One of the biggest headaches during the storm was the Jefferson Building's leaky roof, which is scheduled to be replaced early this year. Dry, blowing snow also sifted



Edward Ohnemus

An intrepid shoveler clears the walkways to the James Madison Building.

into Madison Building air ducts, piling up to about four feet in one that caused a leak in the Oval Gallery, prompting removal of some items in the exhibit "New Growth: Recent Acquisitions in Caricature, Cartoon, and Illustration."

On duty throughout the storm, Library Police officers patrolled the Jefferson's decks storing collections about once an hour and reported leaks on Decks 37, 38, 39, 40 and 10 to an emergency response team that includes staffs of LC's Preservation Directorate and Facility Services, as well as the Architect of the Capitol.

"SWAT" Teams Prevent Leak Damage to Books

Ultimately, only about 24 volumes from the general collections sustained water damage. "Considering the water that poured through that building, it is amazing that more books were not damaged," Doris Hamburg, head of the Preservation Directorate's Preventive Conservation Section, said during a Jan. 16 session to critique the LC–AOC response to the snow emergency.

She praised the response of both the Library Police, who kept around-the-clock watch for water leaks and reported them quickly to Preservation staff on emergency call, and the AOC. Throughout the storm, AOC staff traced leaks to their sources, diverted leaking water around books into buckets, draped shelves with plastic and vacuumed floors to stanch the flow of water to lower decks.

"We didn't stop the leaks, but we tried to prevent damage by constructing sheet metal troughs to collect the water and direct it into buckets," said Glenn Marshall, the AOC's general foreman for maintenance at the Library. AOC crews also dismantled walls to determine water routes.

The AOC has hired a roofing contractor, who now is on the job and making preparations for subcontractors to replace the roof, Mr. Marshall said. However, a storm such as last week's, with dry snow that blows into seams, cracks and air vents, still may cause leaks, even with a new roof, Mr. Marshall warned the emergency-response team at its Jan. 16 meeting.

The first leak alert occurred at 6:40 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, when Officer Charles Hales found water running from Deck 37 down through Decks 38, 39 and 40. Ms. Hamburg's beeper sounded at 7:40 p.m., and she and her husband, who had dug out their Bethesda, Md., driveway earlier in the day, drove in to the Library, arriving at 8:45 p.m. Assisted by Library police, they removed about 15 books that were getting wet, cleared areas in which water was dripping, and toured the entire area with three AOC staffers. Ms. Hamburg got home about midnight.

On Tuesday, Jan. 9, Officer W.B. Gaddy, who got up at 3 a.m. at his Herndon, Va., home to be sure to get to work before his second watch shift began at 5:40 a.m., spotted a leak in Deck 10 at 10:18 a.m. After alerting Preservation and the AOC, he removed about 80 books to safety in book carts.

"Water was dripping in a steady stream through the ceiling onto the books," he said.

On that day, Ms. Hamburg came in again, toured all the decks where leaks had occurred, recovered two books from Deck 10, and made sure that the AOC would continue to monitor and clean up trouble spots.

On Thursday, Jan. 11, Officer F.L. Sanfilippo found a leak on Deck 28, where there was no damage to the collections, and staff reported a leak over a photocopier on the Madison Building's fifth floor. A quiet weekend followed.

During their Jan. 16 critique, members of the emergency response team concluded they needed: floor maps showing leak histories so they can try to protect collections before leaks occur; training of Collections Management Division staff on where the danger areas are and what to do if leaks occur; training of Preservation staff on how to find their way around the deck mazes; and communication devices to link Preservation staff with Library Police.

ITS Staff Sleeps Over

A handful of computer applications staffers in Information Technology Services (ITS) kept the data center up and running during the blizzard. The data center has a staff that works in three shifts to cover 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Normally, each shift consists of three to six staffers depending on the day.

Jean Denis, assistant supervisor of the second shift of computer operations, arrived at LC at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6, before the snow storm hit, with plans to stay the night for his shift. Kevin White, supervisor of the third shift, and Larry Carr, senior computer operator for the third shift, arrived at 11 p.m. Saturday. Driving a storm-worthy truck from more than 20 miles away in Virginia, Merle Phillips, supervisor of the second shift, arrived at noon, Sunday, Jan. 7.

None left until 8 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 9.

Anticipating they would be stranded at LC, they brought in sleeping bags and bedded down on the floor. The extra food they brought did not sustain them, and on Monday and Tuesday, they ventured out to nearby restaurants.

By Thursday, Jan. 11, ITS returned to normal staff operations, but with a second storm forecast for Friday, the emergency staff was called in again. Buries Nivens, senior computer operator of the third shift, and Mr. Carr had a tough time getting into town on Thursday night. They were joined by Toni Harris, assistant supervisor of the first shift, and Ron Meekins, senior computer operator of the first shift, on Friday morning.

According to Henry Johnson, group leader for computer operations, all staffing was normal by

midnight, Friday, Jan. 12, and no computer problems were encountered during the week.

Tom Littlejohn, senior systems programming specialist, did not have to come in, thanks to technology. He dialed in periodically during the week to the RS6000s—the computers responsible for LC MARVEL, the Web servers and all Internet applications—to see if the system was functioning properly or there was any congestion. "Everything was running fine," he said.

Reader Services Maintained

The La Follette Congressional Reading Room remained open throughout the week, and Congressional Research Service relied on an emergency snow crew of staffers who live on Capitol Hill to provide service to Congress. They were Congressional Reference Division staffers Donna Scheeder, Holly Massimilla, Betsy Reifsnyder, Linwood Carter, Vanessa Cieslack and Felicia Kolp, who in some permutation over the course of the week staffed the reading room and took more than 550 phone and in-person inquiries. By Wednesday, Jan. 10, congressional staffers began to come in, and on Thursday alone, when the government was open, there were 51 in-person inquiries.

The CRS Inquiry Section was not staffed on Monday or Tuesday. On Wednesday, Robert Newlen, head of the Inquiry Section, Elena Stamoulis, information specialist, and Russell Ball, information specialist, came in and processed a heavy volume of requests. According to Mr. Newlen, most requests came from district and state offices that were unaffected by the blizzard. On Thursday, the office operated as usual, and on Friday, Mr. Newlen and Mr. Ball returned and handled the workload.

"They were real troopers [Ball and Stamoulis]," said Mr. Newlen. "This kind of performance shows the dedication of the staff to serve Congress."

There were also other employees who staffed the research divisions.

Margaret Whitlock, director of Law Library services, summoned Robert Gee, chief of public services for the Law Library, who lives on Capitol Hill, from a vacation in order to staff the Law Library Reading Room on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mr. Gee alone ensured that service was uninterrupted and handled the many requests from congressional constituents and CRS staff.

Congress adjourned on Friday, Jan. 12, when the Law Library Reading Room closed, but it reopened on Saturday for the public. Ms. Whitlock kept in touch with Law Librarian Rubens Medina from home to discuss reading room operations.

Legal Reference Specialists Pamela Craig and Nancy Wynn, along with Senior Legal Information Technician Specialists Hank Corbel, L.J. Cunningham, Rachel Montgomery and Alvin Wallace, staffed the reading room on Saturday along with Mr. Gee and Ms. Whitlock.

"We had 100 percent attendance of scheduled staff on Saturday," Ms. Whitlock said. "They made a remarkable effort to get in here despite adverse conditions."

The Library's Thin Blue Line

A winter storm demands that Library Police officers come to work to secure the buildings and ensure the safety of other staffers who are on the job. "The real story here is that the police managed to get in here during the height of the storm. We are expected to have 24-hour-a-day protection for these buildings and the staff who are on duty," said Michael Shelley, acting director for protective services.

"We had a holiday-size crew, which is about half the normal size, during the time that the buildings were closed, Jan. 8–10 and 12," Capt. Parker said. "Some people, who were not needed, came in to ensure we would be covered, and we sent them home. Others got stuck here in the storm, and some volunteered to stay beyond their shifts to guarantee coverage if others couldn't make it in."

Edward Ohnemus

Teachers Kathy McCool (left) and Monica Palnau from Texas toured the Thomas Jefferson Building on Jan. 11, the first day the Library reopened after the Blizzard of '96. The sisters came to the Library seeking ideas to inspire their students.

LC One of Best Info Tech Workplaces:

Among Top Five for Second Year in a Row

For the second year in a row, the Library of Congress was selected one of the top five best places to work in government in the field of information technology systems, according to a survey conducted by *Computerworld*, a newspaper for information systems management.

"For the Library to be selected twice is an outstanding commentary on where you work," said Katie Kress Taplett, regional manager at *Computerworld*, who recently presented a commemorative plaque to Suzanne Thorin, LC chief of staff; Herbert Becker, director of Information Technology Services, and the ITS Management Team.

The Library moved up in rank from fourth place to third among five agencies cited in the government category (the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, the Department of Labor, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency).

The Library also made *Computerworld's* list of the 100 best places for information professionals to work in government, private industry or academe.

Selection involved polling more than 1,500 information systems managers, who in turn nominated about 600 outstanding information systems organizations within their industry. This list was added to the top 250 companies on the Fortune 500 list of industrial and service firms.

Computerworld asked these 850 organizations for information on key quality-of-worklife issues such as salary levels, staff growth, employee benefits, training, racial and gender diversity, organizational communications and the use of technologies. "This year's survey identifies a strong correlation between the growth rates of IS organizations and the amount that their companies invest in IS talent, specifically in training," said Bill Laberis, editor-in-chief of *Computerworld*.

This is the third time in the past two years that the Library has been cited for excellence in information technology. In addition to appearing on *Computerworld's* top 100 list in 1994, the Library was included among the CIO–100 for its customer services in 1993.

CIO, a magazine for information executives, specifically commended the Library for making its public files available nationally and internationally over the Internet and its plans to extend a user-friendly graphical interface to remote locations. It also praised the digital imaging system that provides document delivery to Congress, accommodates more subscribers, produces superior prints and reduces turnaround time from the old microfiche-based system.

—Audrey Fischer

Audrey Fischer is a writer in Information Technology Services.

Drew Linginfelter

Suzanne Thorin, chief of staff, accepts a commemorative plaque from Pauline Smith (left), product manager, and Katie Kress Taplett, regional manager of *Computerworld* magazine. Herb Becker, director of Information Technology Services, looks on.

History's Wordsmiths:

LC's New CD Introduced by Presidential Speechwriters

"The Library of Congress has always believed in free speech and today you're getting five of them!"

So said Ted Sorensen, former speechwriter for President John F. Kennedy, one of five former presidential speechwriters who gathered at the National Press Club for a discussion of their experiences at the White House.

The event, held September 22, 1995, was organized by the Library of Congress to mark the release of 23 recordings of historic presidential speeches from the Library's collections. The boxed set of six CD/cassettes is a joint project of the Library and Rhino Records.

Every president from Taft through Clinton is represented. Most of the speeches were chosen by the Library, except when the president or someone from his family or staff could be contacted. Many of the speeches have never been published before.

At the National Press Club, the other speechwriters joining Mr. Sorensen were Mary Kate Cary (Bush), William Ewald (Eisenhower), Anthony Dolan (Reagan) and Hendrik Hertzberg (Carter). Mr. Hertzberg, now executive editor of *The New Yorker*, began the discussion and served as moderator.

"I must say, it's a fantasy come true to be promoting a record," he said, noting that a group of former speechwriters had formed their own society "because we thought, 'If we don't honor ourselves, who's going to?'"

Mr. Hertzberg's comment touched upon the paradoxical role of the speechwriter, a role he called "something of an embarrassment to a politician. After all, if a politician is not the words he says, then what is he? And if somebody else is writing the words, then is he really there?"

As the speechwriters swapped stories for the benefit of the lunchtime audience, the answer to this question was apparent: Yes, the politician was really there. Very much so. And these speechwriters considered themselves fortunate to have had such close associations with some of the most powerful men of our time.

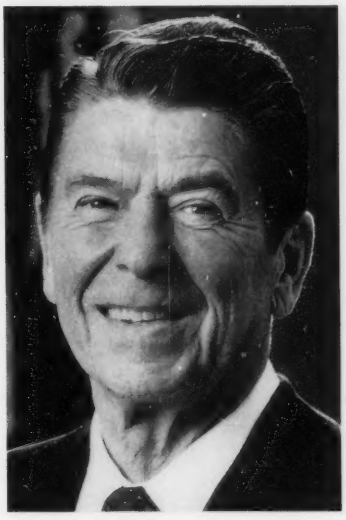
Saying he thought he would proceed in "archaeological" order, Mr. Hertzberg invited Mary Kate Cary to talk first. Ms. Cary served President Bush from 1989 to 1992. She told the audience that the president had given his speechwriters three rules when he first came into office. The first was that he didn't like the word "I." "He didn't want to say, 'I want a crime bill that's going to stop crime,'" Ms. Cary said, "because he thought that was disrespectful to the police who actually had to put their lives on the line."

The second rule was not to write a speech that was *too* good. "He said that we were not to write him a speech that was a '10,'" she said. "He said, 'If you give me a 10, I'm going to send it back and say, 'Give me an 8,' and you'll be lucky if I deliver it like a 6.'"

The third rule, according to Ms. Cary, was to use a lot of Yogi Berra quotes. The president liked Yogi Berra quotes, along with those of Teddy Roosevelt and Eisenhower. According to Ms. Cary, this made speechwriting easier because "you can make up a lot of good Yogi Berra because everybody always thinks Yogi Berra said something."

Anthony Dolan spoke next. As President Reagan's chief speechwriter, he is credited with coining the term "the evil empire." He is finishing a manuscript for a book called *Undoing the Evil Empire: How Reagan Won the Cold War.*

Mr. Dolan focused on President Reagan's foresight in predicting the fall of communism. According to Dolan, the president frequently resisted



Ronald Reagan

Dwight Eisenhower

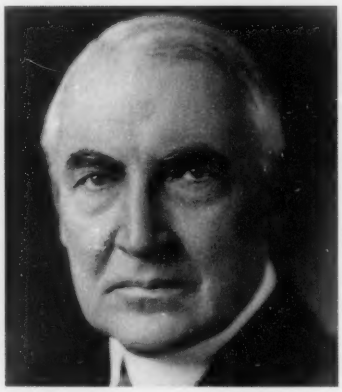
expert advice and followed his own instincts.

"We understood better than most that he was always the author of his own success and that he always made the staff look good, not the other way around," he said.

Mr. Dolan reminded the audience that Reagan had been involved in a political movement (the Screen Actors' Guild) for 30 years before he became president. This qualified the president, according to Mr. Dolan, as living "a life of the mind."

Unlike most of what he called "this city's opinion league" Mr. Dolan asserted that Ronald Reagan wasn't just an immensely attractive media property. He was "a cerebral president."

As evidence, Mr. Dolan pointed to the speech Reagan selected for the Rhino disk, "Remarks to the Students and Faculty at Moscow State University" (1988). Here Reagan made the case for the creative and moral force of freedom triumphing over communism. Earlier, during the first month of his presidency, he had called communism "just an episode in history that's dying."



Warren G. Harding

Then Rick Hertzberg discussed President Carter's own selection for the anthology, the so-called "Malaise Speech." Officially it is called the "Energy and National Goals Address to the Nation." It was an odd choice for Carter to make. Many say this speech was the undoing of his presidency. However, Mr. Hertzberg noted, after the president subjected himself to this "extraordinary self-laceration," his popularity shot up 11 points.

"It wasn't the speech that was his undoing, really, it was the Cabinet shakeup that happened two or three days later," according to Mr. Hertzberg.

Ted Sorensen followed, discussing the Kennedy years. He called Kennedy "a great extemporizer." He said Kennedy made the decision to give one of his greatest speeches only about two hours before it was scheduled to air on national television. It was delivered on the day George Wallace stood in the doorway of the University of Alabama to block integration.

Speechwriters launching LC's "Historic Presidential Speeches (1908–1993)" CD were (from left): Cooper Graham, Samuel Brylawski of the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, William Ewald Jr., Rick Hertzberg, Mary Kate Cary, Ted Sorensen and Anthony Dolan.

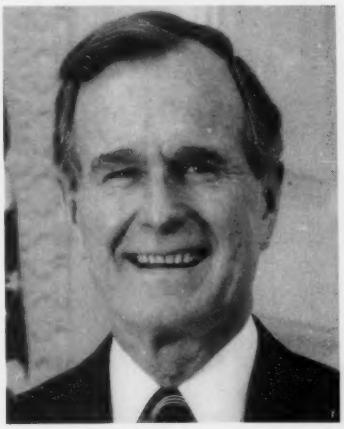
"It was the first speech in history in which a president of the United States declared that thereafter, there was to be no moral or legal justification why anyone should be the subject of discrimination or segregation on the basis of race or color," he said.

Mr. Sorensen also related one incident in which he and the only copy of a speech the president was to deliver got stuck in traffic. He described how he was forced to listen on the car radio, panic stricken, as the president was introduced. "Thank God it turned out he knew something about TVA!" he said to general laughter.

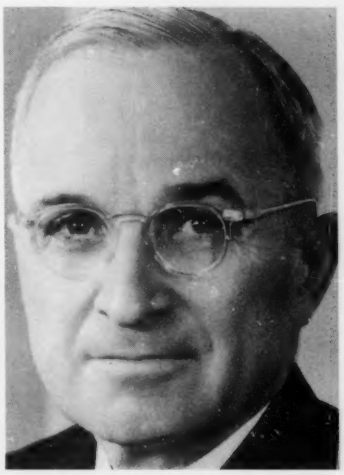
But it was the speech selected for the Rhino anthology that Mr. Sorensen said he regarded as the president's most important. The speech was given as the commencement address at American University on June 10, 1963.

Mr. Sorensen said, "It was the first time in all of those postwar years that a president of the United States had asked the American people to take a different look at the Cold War and to take a different look at the process of peace and to take a different look at the Soviet Union itself. I would have to say that it was as opposite from the 'evil empire' speech that Tony Dolan talked about as two speeches could possibly be, 25 years apart. And that's one of the sad aspects of President Kennedy's death. I firmly believe that had he not been killed later in 1963, that the Cold War might not have stretched on for another 25 or more years, at a terrible cost to our fortune and manpower."

Then, President Eisenhower's speechwriter, William Ewald Jr., discussed what he said was the question on everybody's lips that day, namely, "Is Colin Powell another Eisenhower?" Mr. Ewald saw a strong resemblance in substance, if not in style. He said that Eisenhower liked to work one-on-one. He reported the president saying, "I used to work for MacArthur, and one thing I know, and that is that once you get more than five people or even two people in a room, if the speech has any character in it, all the character goes out of it."



George Bush



Harry S Truman

Mr. Ewald contrasted this style with that of Colin Powell in assembling a large group to help him produce his recent book, *My American Journey*. "You've got a writer, you've got a research team and then you've got about 30 people who contribute to research. What they all did, I don't know," he said.

However different Eisenhower and Mr. Powell were in style, Mr. Ewald saw similarities in substance. The two men delivered the same message on a number of issues.

"I find very, very little difference between Colin Powell on the one hand, and Dwight Eisenhower on the other," he said. "It's just one thing after another: no executive wars, no getting into war without the support of the American people; [Powell writes] 'I'm a fiscal conservative with heart,' or 'I'm a fiscal conservative with a conscience,' and Eisenhower said exactly the same thing in the same words.

"'Take your job seriously, never yourself'—that's an Eisenhower maxim and it's in Colin Powell's book. Time and again, if you're really trying to look for a dime's worth of difference on principle and on belief, I find very little difference between the two."

After a few questions from the audience, some of whom were themselves former presidential speechwriters, Mr. Hertzberg closed the discussion, adding, "and don't forget to buy the record!"

"The Library of Congress Presents: Historic Presidential Speeches (1908–1993)" is available at audio retail outlets and selected bookstores or by mail from Rhino Mail Order at (800) 432-0020. The suggested list price is $79.98 CDs/$59.98 cassettes. The set includes a 56-page illustrated brochure with an introduction by the Librarian of Congress, a political timeline and essays by Samuel Brylawski and Cooper Graham of the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, who produced the set, and Dr. Kathleen Hall Jamieson, presidential scholar and dean of the Annenberg School of Communications at the University of Pennsylvania.

—by Craig D'Ooge

Craig D'Ooge is media director in the Public Affairs Office.

Plantation Exhibit Opens At Martin Luther King Library

The Martin Luther King Library in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 16 opened the exhibit about slave life on southern plantations that LC dismantled on Dec. 18, only hours after the exhibit was put up in the center core of the Madison Building's sixth floor.

Associate Librarian for Library Services Winston Tabb said on Tuesday, Jan. 2, that the small traveling exhibit will return to the road unchanged except for its title, which several Library employees found offensive. The subtitle of the exhibit will become the main title, "The Cultural Landscape of the Plantation."

Mr. Tabb ordered the exhibit taken down at 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, shortly after he discovered its surprise appearance on the sixth floor, but not because anyone requested its removal. Although the exhibit was scheduled for the Library from Dec. 16 through Jan. 28, according to a July 14 article in the *Gazette* and other early announcements, there had been no recent publicity. The staff was not prepared for the opening of the exhibit, nor were related activities planned, such as the symposium that accompanied LC's showing of "The Birth of a Nation."

Some 40 Library employees complained the afternoon of Dec. 18, when the exhibit appeared. Some said the main title, "Back of the Big House," was provocative, particularly in light of troubled race history at the Library, which some black employees called "the big house" in the past. Although the 1982 *Cook* race discrimination class action lawsuit against the Library was settled last fall for $8.5 million in back pay, 40 promotions, 10 reassignments and a revamped personnel system, the case still awaits federal appellate court action on five plaintiffs' appeals.

Materials for the exhibit are drawn largely from two collections at the Library. Some 80 photographs and illustrations come from the Historic American Buildings Survey collection housed in the Library's Prints and Photographs Division, and captions are based on 1930s interviews of former slaves by the Federal Writers' Project. The exhibit's curator is George Washington University Professor John Michael Vlach, who based a book, "Back of the Big House," on the interviews and photographs from LC's collections.

Staff critics objected that the exhibit lacked historical context and critical examination of slavery. However, according to published accounts, Mr. Vlach said the thrust of the exhibit was to show that slaves rose above their condition to create a culture of their own. An exhibit brochure, which explains the context for the display and its purpose, was not available to employees at the time the exhibit was set up.

Elena Tscherny, coordinator of exhibits and programs at the Martin Luther King Library, said she welcomes the exhibit.

"We are delighted to have this exhibit coming here," Ms. Tscherny said. "This is an appropriate place to have a forum for the exchange of ideas. We collect these materials. Nothing for us is controversial."

The exhibit also is scheduled to appear at the Historical Society of Talbot County in Easton, Md., Feb. 17 through March 31; at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum in Huntsville, Texas, April 20 through June 2; at the Frederick Douglass Library at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, in Princess Anne, Md., Oct. 26 through Dec. 8; and at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond from Feb. 23 through April 9.

—*Gail Fineberg*

Associate Copyrights Register Named

Shira Perlmutter has been named associate register of copyrights for policy and international affairs, a new senior level position in the Copyright Office. She reports directly to Register of Copyrights Marybeth Peters.

Ms. Perlmutter's office will centralize the Copyright Office's policy and international copyright work. She said that the role of her office is one of objective support for Congress. "We are not following our own agenda," she said. "Rather we should serve as a source of information and objective counsel."

Ms. Perlmutter, who worked part-time at the Library from October until December, was previously an associate law professor at Catholic University of America. She also served as an associate attorney in New York City.

Ms. Perlmutter has won awards for her articles on copyright law.

In 1993, Dr. Billington asked Ms. Perlmutter to serve as one of 20 persons on the Advisory Committee on Copyright Registration and Deposit.

The Librarian asked the group to

Craig Hobson

Shira Perlmutter

Davis to Head 'Internal University':
Will Focus Full-time on Major New Program

Hiram L. Davis will head a long-term effort to train and develop the Library's current work force for the next century.

The shorthand for this concept is the "internal university," which Dr. Davis started developing last year with Dr. Billington. Dr. Davis will relinquish his duties as Deputy Librarian to focus full-time on the program, assuming the title of senior advisor for staff development and staff transition in the Librarian's Office.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to develop and implement this important initiative at the Library and to find new ways to broaden the knowledge and skills of our staff with a systematic long-term approach. Dr. Billington and I are confident that we can count on the full support of the staff to make this new endeavor a solid success," Dr. Davis said.

Dr. Davis will seek staff suggestions for pilot projects, as a first step toward a Library-wide system of education.

He said that he did not expect either instant results or additional appropriations from Congress for the new endeavor.

In a special announcement Jan. 3, Dr. Billington praised Dr. Davis's efforts to jumpstart the initiative. He indicated that the Library, facing both budget constraints and new technology, now primarily has to rely not on new hires for needed skills but on the full development of its existing work force through education, training, job experience, mentoring and other means.

"We can make real improvements that benefit everyone who works here," Dr. Davis said. "For me, it's a tremendous challenge and an opportunity to make a significant contribution to the Library's future."

Innovative training and education efforts have been under way, notably in the 30-person Affirmative Action intern program and tuition support programs. But a more systematic Library-wide match of future skills needs, existing talent and tailored training/education efforts is essential to LC's future. The Librarian mentioned this need for an "internal university" in his Nov. 29 testimony before the Joint Committee on the Library (see LC *Information Bulletin*, Dec. 11, 1995).

Excerpts from the Librarian's special announcement:

I want to take this opportunity to share with you an initiative . . . that has begun to grow during the past few months through Dr. Hiram L. Davis's personal efforts, and that together we have decided to launch as a long-term endeavor as we begin the new year.

Dr. Hiram Davis

Under this new initiative, which I have referred to at various times as an "internal university," we will be seeking to develop in new ways the greatest asset the Library has for realizing its mission and strategic priorities: the actual and potential skills of our own staff. . . .

Dr. Davis brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this initiative. . . . [He] served as director of libraries at Michigan State University, where he was a vigorous promoter of networking and electronic access to information. He did his graduate work in administration and library science at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, earning his Ph.D. in 1984.

I intend to be actively involved as Dr. Davis moves ahead to develop this Library-wide system of internal education, and I hope you will all give him the benefit of your support, ideas and involvement.

Perlmutter *(Cont. from p. 12)*

reexamine the copyright system to ensure that copyright owners were protected by the law and that their creative works would continue to be acquired and preserved by the Library.

She also has served as the copyright consultant to the Clinton administration's Advisory Committee on the National Information Infrastructure. She is also on advisory boards for the Bureau of National Affairs' *Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law Journal*, the *Journal of the Copyright Society of the U.S.A.* and the *American Intellectual Property Association Quarterly Journal*. She is also a member of the executive committee of the Association Littéraire et Artistique Internationale, which focuses on international issues relating to authorship.

Ms. Perlmutter earned her A.B. degree in linguistics from Harvard University in 1978, and her J.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1983.

A native of Philadelphia, Ms. Perlmutter lives in Washington.

News from the Center for the Book:

Center Forms Partnership with Everybody Wins

On Jan. 3, Dr. Billington announced that the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress has joined with the Everybody Wins Foundation Inc. in a new national reading promotion partnership.

"The Everybody Wins project focuses on one-to-one reading aloud relationships between adults and young children," said Dr. Billington. "A proven success in New York City and in Washington, Everybody Wins has tremendous national potential."

"Our cooperation is starting through pilot Everybody Wins projects in Vermont and Minnesota," said Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole. "We hope additional state centers for the book will become participants later in 1996."

The Center for the Book also will support the Everybody Wins project in Washington and sponsor an Everybody Wins event at the Library of Congress in autumn 1996.

Founded in 1991 by Arthur Tannenbaum, Everybody Wins is a private, nonprofit organization devoted to promoting children's literacy to help their prospects for success in school and life. For information, write or call Everybody Wins Foundation, 165 E. 56th St., New York, NY 10022, (212) 832-3180; or Joanie Chase, Everybody Wins D.C., 13605 Sir Thomas Way, No. 44, Silver Spring, MD 20904, (301) 890-0646.

☐ **First "Books & Beyond" Speakers Announced.** Programs on Jan. 30 and Feb. 13 will inaugurate "Books & Beyond," the Center for the Book's new series of talks by authors of books that have particular relevance to the Library of Congress. Both programs begin at noon and are free and open to the public.

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, in Dining Room A on the sixth floor of the Madison Building, Jane Aiken Rosenberg will discuss her book, *The Nation's Great Library: Herbert Putnam and the Library of Congress, 1899–1939* (Univ. of Illinois Press, 1993).

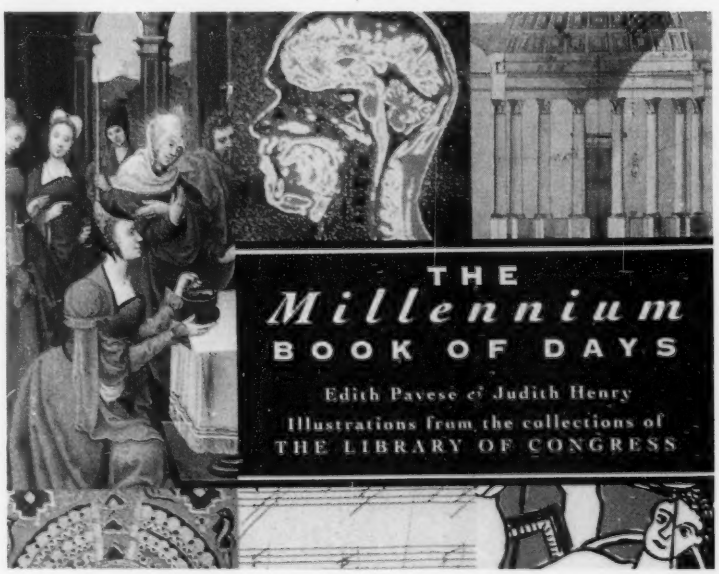
Jane Rosenberg

In the Mumford Room in the Madison Building on Tuesday, Feb. 13, Edith Pavese and Judith Henry will present an illustrated program and discuss their book, *The Millennium Book of Days* (Crown, 1995). This volume uses illustrations from the Library's collections to celebrate the remarkable events of 1000–2000 A.D.

Developed in collaboration with the Library's Publishing Office, *The Millennium Book of Days* contains a foreword by Dr. Billington.

☐ **Boorstin Reader Published.** The Modern Library has published *The Daniel J. Boorstin Reader,* with more than 75 selections from Dr. Boorstin's best-selling works *(The Americans, The Discoverers, The Creators)* as well as essays from eight of his other works.

Edited by Ruth F. Boorstin, this original collection includes an introduction by Roderick MacLeish and a list of Dr. Boorstin's 22 books, from *The Mysterious Science of the Law* (Harvard Univ. Press, 1941) to *Cleopatra's Nose: Essays on the Unexpected* (Random House, 1994).



The volume was announced at the Library of Congress on Sept. 30, 1994, by Robert Loomis, Dr. Boorstin's editor at Random House. The occasion was a symposium and dinner in the Library's Great Hall, marking Dr. Boorstin's 80th birthday and recognizing his contributions as Librarian of Congress (1975–1987), historian and citizen of the world of books. (See LC *Information Bulletin*, Dec. 26, 1994).

The event was sponsored by the Center for the Book, which Dr. Boorstin established in 1977 and in which he remains actively involved.

A 908-page volume, *The Daniel J. Boorstin Reader* is available for $20 in bookstores and in the LC Sales Shop. One of the essays in the book, "Gresham's Law: Knowledge or Information?," is reprinted from a Center for the Book publication that is available in the LC Sales Shop for $15: *The Republic of Letters: Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin on Books, Reading and Libraries, 1975–1987*, edited by John Y. Cole.

For information, call (202) 707-0204.

Daniel Boorstin

☐ **"Literary Heritage of the States" Project Enters New Phase.** In 1995 the Center for the Book completed a "Literary Heritage of the States" project, funded in 1992 through a major grant from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund.

"We are grateful to the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund for helping us establish literary heritage—the linking of writers and their writing to places and regional traditions—as a major, continuing Center for the Book theme," said John Y. Cole, the center's director. "In addition to funding exhibits, programs, publications and projects at the Library of Congress and at 24 affiliated state centers, the project increased appreciation of literary heritage and the values of a book culture; helped establish literary maps as innovative and useful educational tools; and stimulated public interest in writers and their writing throughout the nation. It also provided seed money for several projects that will be continued and expanded here at the Library."

At the Library, the grant supported "Language of the Land: Journeys into Literary America," an exhibition held in the foyer of the Madison Building from September 1993 through January 1994. A joint project of the Interpretive Programs Office, the Geography and Map Division and the Center for the Book, the exhibition features literary maps from the Library's collection and photographs from the Prints and Photographs Division. It quotes prominent writers to show how Americans' views of different regions of the country have been influenced and shaped by literary voices.

After being hosted at 14 state centers from 1992 through mid-1995, "Language of the Land" is now part of the Library's traveling exhibits program. For booking information, call the Interpretive Programs Office at (202) 707-5223.

Support from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund grant supported a great variety of literary heritage projects and events at state centers for the book. The list includes 74 reading events in 38 cities or towns; 12 new state literary maps; three statewide "author posters"; two books, five booklets and four brochures; a CD-ROM; four symposia/panel discussions; seven special events honoring local authors; a film series; a public television series featuring regional and state authors; a radio program; four "auxiliary" exhibits displayed concurrently with "Language of the Land;" two continuing projects in local schools, and at least three T-shirts.

Another project stimulated by the grant is *The Library of Congress Book of Literary Maps*, an illustrated catalog/listing of the approximately 300 literary maps in the Geography and Map Division, including the 12 new maps created through the project. The book, which is being edited by Martha Hopkins of the Interpretive Programs Office and Michael Buscher of the Geography and Map Division, will introduce scholars and the general public to literary maps as a genre. Publication by the Library is expected late this year.

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